

STATUS

The above-captioned patent application is pending.

Claims 1-20 are pending and subject to a restriction/election requirement.

RESTRICTION/ELECTION

Applicant provisionally elects with traverse to prosecute Species (1) disclosed in FIGs. 2 and 5.

Applicant provisionally elects with traverse to prosecute Subspecies (a) disclosed in FIGs. 8, 10, and 11.

REMARKS

Applicant has elected to prosecute this patent application based on Species (1) and Subspecies (a). This election is made **with** traverse. There is a commonality of invention in each of the independent claims - the marking of the tear strip and checking the position of the tear strip by sensors for the marks on the tear strip. Thus, all of the claims are directed to a common invention.

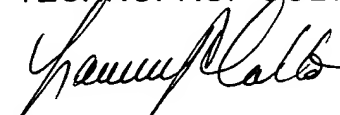
Applicant notes, as the examiner has acknowledged, that Claims 1 and 6 are generic and readable on all of the species disclosed in the patent application.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that the above-identified patent application now is in condition for examination and respectfully requests such actions.

If the examiner has any further questions, please contact the below-signed attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,
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